COMMITTEES:

CHAIRPERSON

· APPROPRIATIONS · GENERAL SERVICES

VICE CHAIRPERSON

· ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

### MEMBER:

- · ACCOUNTABILITY & ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
- BUSINESS GROWTH & INCENTIVES
- MASS TRANSIT
- PUBLIC UTILITIES
- · STATE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

### APPOINTED TO:

- · LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMISSION
- HIGHER EDUCATION PERFORMANCE FUNDING STEERING COMMITTEE

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: M8 Docket No. 14-57



## ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# FRED CRESPO

STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 44TH DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE: 255 · S STRATTON BLDG. SPRINGFIELO, IL 62706 PHONE: 217/782-0347 FAX: 217/557-4622

DISTRICT OFFICE: 1014 E. SCHAUMBURG RD. STREAMWOOD, IL 60107 PHONE: 630/372-3340 FAX: 630/372-3342

August 21, 2014

### Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I have dedicated my political career to improving life for the residents of Illinois, first as a Trustee for the Chicago suburb. The Village of Hoffman Estates, and as an Illinois State Legislator since 2007. Education in particular has been my passion and that is a significant part of the reason I am contacting the Commission and asking its members to approve the Comcast and Time Warner Cable transaction.

Comcast and NBCUniversal share my commitment to spotlighting education issues. NBCUniversal's annual "Education Nation" Summit, which was launched in 2010, offers a public dissection of all the issues involved with education while explaining what 21st century learning requires of students and teachers. An important outcome of those workshops, speakers and town half gatherings has been the awareness of technology's increasing role in how, when and what our students learn.

In today's world, access to the best technology is one of the most the critical features of a top education. Students who can connect digitally have a world of opportunity literally at their fingertips. Yet, many children still lack the basic equipment and internet access they need to perform to national standards and to compete with their international peers. Here in Illinois, there have been efforts to close the so-called Digital Divide and no company has done more to connect children to computers and the Internet than Comcast and its Internet Essentials program. Families who cannot afford computers and Internet service are able to get both at deep discounts. In Illinois, this program has helped bring Internet access at home to tens of thousands.

Comcast and NBC Universal have also invested in scholarships, grants, volunteer hours and programs like Digital Connectors, and this commitment to community partnerships gives me great optimism. Moreover, I understand that the combined entity will serve more communities throughout the country than ever before upon approval of the transaction. The expansion of Comcast service into new markets will not just represent the expansion of infrastructure or technology. It will represent the expansion of community partnerships and positive corporate relationships.

Just as important are the potential technological innovations and economic opportunity it can bring as well. Illinois already benefits from the robust operations Comcast has based here, including owned and operated NBC and Telemundo affiliates, close to 7,000 local employees, and millions in infrastructure investments.

I witnessed the vast community improvements that came with the Comcast and NBC Universal partnership and I can only imagine the positive benefits that will result from expanded presence of those companies under the proposed agreement.

I urge you to approve this transaction.

Sincerely.

Fred Crespo

Illinois State Representative, 44th District